



Local Rule Changes as of October 27, 2006

U.S. District Court, Texas Eastern

Here are noteworthy changes to the local rules enacted on October 27, 2006 by General Order 06-15:

- **Copies of Initial Civil Case Filings Documents (Local Rule CV-4).** Copies of original paper case filing documents are no longer required. If original paper documents are submitted for case opening, they are immediately scanned into the court's CM/ECF database and thus become instantaneously available to multiple electronic users.
- **Electronic Filing of Civil Complaints and Notices of Appeal (Local Rule CV-5(a)(1)).** Attorneys are now strongly encouraged to electronically file civil complaints and notices of appeal. Initial and appellate filing fees can now be paid online. Instructions for electronic fee payments are available on the court's website, located at www.txed.uscourts.gov. Summons also will be issued from the clerk's office to plaintiff's attorney(s) electronically.
- **Electronic Filing of Sealed Documents in Civil Cases (Local Rule CV-5(a)(7)(C)).** All documents requested to be filed under seal or ex parte must now be filed electronically. The former requirement of filing sealed non-patent documents on a CD-ROM disk was removed.
- **Collective Page Limitation on Summary Judgment Motions, Responses, Replies and Surreplies (Local Rule CV-7(a)(1)).** The presumptive page limit for a party's collective summary judgment motions or responses thereto, excluding attachments, is now sixty pages. The presumptive page limit for a party's collective reply or surreply briefs, excluding attachments, is now twenty pages.
- **Withdrawal of Counsel; Termination of Electronic Notice (Local Rule CV-11(d) and (e)).** Attorneys may withdraw from a case only by motion and order. Attorneys must file a motion requesting termination of electronic notice of e-filings, if so desired.
- **Time to File Bill of Costs (Local Rule CV-54)).** Prevailing parties in civil cases must file and serve a bill of costs within 14 days of the entry of judgment.
- **Scope of General Requirement to File a Notice of Appearance (Local Rule CV-77)).** The court expanded the scope of the general requirement that attorneys who wish to receive electronic notice of e-filings but do not sign filed pleadings or documents must file a notice of appearance of counsel.
- **Electronic Filing of Mediator's Report (Appendix H, Section (f)).** The amendment streamlines the former process, which required the mediator to submit a paper report to the judge, who would then forward it to the clerk for filing. Under the new procedure, the report is filed electronically and thus becomes immediately available to the court and litigants.
- **Patent Rule Changes (Appendix M)).** The word "preliminary" was removed from all references to "infringement contentions" and "invalidity contentions" as unnecessary in light of P.R. 3-6 and 3-7, which state that such contentions are final, unless amendment is permitted. New P.R. 4-5(e) provides a default page limitation - that of dispositive motions - for claim construction briefing, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

General Order 06-15 and an up-to-date version of the local rules can be found on the court's website, located at www.txed.uscourts.gov.